United Nations E/CN.18/2002/10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 December 2001

Original: English

United Nations Forum on Forests
Second session
San José, Costa Rica, 4-15 March 2002
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Common items for each session: multi-stakeholder dialogue

Multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable forest management

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1/1, the United Nations Forum on Forests stressed the importance of involvement by major groups as identified in Agenda 21 in the work of the Forum, and noted the value of inputs from major groups associated with forest management at the national, regional and global levels.[1]

2. It was also decided that multi-stakeholder dialogues are to be held at each session, and the Forum invited relevant stakeholders, in accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, paragraph 4 (c), to contribute to discussions in each session, including case study experience, and to encourage a balanced stakeholder participation of developed and developing countries so as to give meaningful inputs, inter alia, to the implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals for action and the intergovernmental forest policy dialogue.

3. The Forum also stressed that concrete activities should be undertaken to fulfil its principal functions, in particular the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action at the national, regional and global levels.

4. At the second session of the Forum, the multi-stakeholder dialogue will engage five key stakeholders, namely, representatives of: (a) forest-related non-governmental organizations; (b) indigenous people; (c) scientific and technological communities working in forest-related fields; (d) business and industry related to forests; and (e) forest owners. The stakeholders' delegations are expected to be formed on the basis of gender and geographical balance, ensuring the representation of stakeholders from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

5. The current multi-stakeholder dialogue has been prepared in cooperation with network organizations from the five major group sectors noted above. Key organizations of the major groups were contacted, and those organizations were in turn requested to collaborate with their partners in the community of their major group. The key organizations contacted were: (a) for the forest-related NGOs, the Global Forest Policy Project, Greenpeace International, Sobrevivencia and the World Rainforest Movement; (b) for the indigenous people major group, the Asociación Napguana, the Indigenous Peoples Organization and the Forest Peoples Programme; (c) for the scientific and technological community, the European Forestry Institute, the International Union of

* E/CN.18/2002/1.

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Forestry Research Organizations, the World Conservation Union and the World Resources Institute; (d) for business and industry, the Confederation of European Paper Industries, the International Forum of Forests and Paper Associations and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development; (e) for forest owners, the Confédération européenne des propriétaires forestiers and the Red de Reservas Privadas.

6. Those key organizations facilitated the preparation of background documents, which will be issued as addenda to the present note, and consulted with their networks to identify their representatives and prepare them to participate in the dialogue.

7. The Bureau of the Forum for its second session decided on the theme "Review of progress in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action" as the theme of the multi-stakeholder dialogue session. It is understood that the review of the progress of implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action will be within the context of elements of the second session of the Forum. The dialogue will consist of two sessions, at which the major groups will make short presentations on their contributions to the implementation of the proposals for action and related key issues. Some government delegations will also comment on the progress of implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. The sessions will also consist of an open dialogue moderated by the Chairman of the Forum, which will effectively engage major groups and Governments in a genuine dialogue on specific issues with regard to implementation of the proposals for action.

8. The outcome of the multi-stakeholder dialogue will be a Chairman's summary, which will be included in the final report of the Forum on its second session. In addition, many proposals made and discussed in the multi-stakeholder segment will be presented to the Forum and taken into careful consideration in the negotiated decision of the Forum on the topic of the dialogue. Direct contributions by major groups on the decisions and work of the Forum will also be invited.

9. The multi-stakeholder dialogues have been recognized as an efficient and effective way to involve major groups in assessing progress on a particular topic being discussed in an intergovernmental body, building consensus on possible future actions and generating new partnerships. The multi-stakeholder dialogue is expected to promote the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action for sustainable forest management.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 22* (E/2001/42/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, sect. B, resolution 1/1, sect. E.